TULSA WORLD

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UNDER SIEGE

Protesters swamp Capitol; Lawmakers reconvene for vote tally

JOHN MINCHILLO, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trump supporters gather at the Capitol on Wednesday in Washington. As Congress prepared to affirm President-elect Joe Biden's victory, thousands of people gathered to show their support for President Donald Trump and his claims of election fraud, with hundreds storming the Capitol Building.

Scene of chaos, fear, resolve in Congress

LISA MASCARO, ERIC TUCKER, MARY CLARE JALONICK AND ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A violent mob loyal to President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday and forced lawmakers into hiding, in a stunning attempt to overturn America's presidential election, undercut the nation's democracy and keep Democrat Joe Biden from replacing Trump in the White House.

The nation's elected representatives scrambled to crouch under desks and don gas masks, while police futilely tried to barricade the building, one of the most jarring scenes ever to unfold in a seat of American political power. A woman was shot and killed inside the Capitol, and Washington's mayor instituted an evening curfew in an attempt to contain the violence.

Members of Congress later reconvened to count each state's Electoral College vote tally to confirm President-elect Joe Biden's victory, hearing objections in House and Senate chambers separately and in a joint session well into the night.

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ANDREW HARNIK, ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Capitol police, with guns drawn, stand near a barricaded door as protesters try to break into the House Chamber at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday. U.S. Rep. Markwayne Mullin, R-Okla., can be seen in a white shirt to the right of the officers.

JOHN MINCHILLO, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trump supporters try to break through a police barrier on Wednesday at the Capitol in Washington. The protesters eventually forced their way into the Capitol Building.

Oklahoma lawmakers safe in Capitol attack

RANDY KREHBIEL
Tulsa World

Oklahoma's congressional delegation seemed to be safe Wednesday afternoon as a violent mob of supporters for President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol and momentarily gained access to both the House and Senate chambers.

U.S. Sen. James Lankford was about 2½ minutes into a speech supporting a delay in congressional approval of the 2020 presidential election when proceedings were suddenly suspended because of the attack.

In his speech, Lankford said Vice President Mike Pence, as president of the Senate, could not disqualify the electoral votes of individual states, as President Donald Trump had claimed Pence could only a few hours earlier. But Lankford repeated Sen. Ted Cruz' request for a 10-day "audit" of the results, which he said many Americans question.

"I have some colleagues who have said that a ten-day commission is not enough time and so they have counter-proposed just ignoring the lingering questions," Lankford said. "We need to do something."

Seconds later, he was interrupted and informed something was indeed happening.

"Peaceful demonstration is an American value — violent destruction is not," Lankford tweeted later. "Attacking police and destroying the Capitol is never pursuit of truth and freedom. Never."

Representatives of Lankford, U.S. Sen. James Inhofe and Congressmen Frank Lucas, Kevin Hern and Markwayne Mullin all said those members were safe .

"My staff and I are safe inside the Capitol Complex," Lucas tweeted. "I thank the Capitol Police who are risking their safety to protect my colleagues and our staff.

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State reports 62 COVID-19 deaths.
METRO, PAGE A9

LOTTERY
Pick 3: 3-4-8 Cash 5: 12-13-15-19-28
Powerball: 1-20-22-60-66-3 x3 ($410 million)
Lotto America: 4-8-17-25-44-6 x2 ($2.4 million)

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